

Att'y Ref. No. 003-060

U.S. App. No.: 10/611,944

1. (Previously Presented) A gap seal for sealing a gap between two adjacent components, comprising:

two components separated by a gap, each component including a sealing surface, the two sealing surfaces facing each other, one of the two components comprising a step that projects from one component sealing surface toward the other component sealing surface;

a sealing body comprising a band having a cross-section bent in such a way to form two contact zones which abut with a preload against the two sealing surfaces of the components and deflect resiliently when the distance between the sealing surfaces is changed, and a support zone formed between the contact zones supported vertically relative to the direction of resilient movement on said step.

2. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, further comprising two spaces at different pressures, wherein the gap connects the two spaces, and wherein the sealing body is supported on a side of the step that faces the space with the higher pressure.

3. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 2, wherein the sealing body has a hollow profile including an opening on one side of the sealing body cross-section, wherein the opening faces the space with the higher pressure.

4. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the band comprises bent spring steel.

5. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the two sealing surfaces of the components are constructed level and extend parallel to each other, and the two contact zones are located on a straight line that is vertical to the sealing surfaces.

6. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the band has a C-shaped cross-sectional profile.

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7. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the profile of the band comprises a U-shaped center section and two end sections, the support zone being between the two end sections, wherein the end sections are bent outward and rounded, and the end sections comprise the contact zones.
8. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the band further comprises contact bodies including the contact zones.
9. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein the step projects from the associated sealing surface a distance so that a bent portion of the sealing body remains in the elastic range when the step, because of a corresponding relative movement of the components, comes to abut against the opposite sealing surface or the opposite component.
10. (Previously Presented) A gap seal according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the components comprises an element of a turbine or a compressor, and the element is selected from the group consisting of a guide vane, a rotorblade, and a heat shield.